THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Developing a new partnership to increase bilateral trade and investment by Indian and Russian business enterprises is a matter of commercial judgement of the business persons of both Sides. Government of India on its part, w.e.f. April 2004, has included Russia as a Focus Country in the onging Focus CIS Programme aimed at developing and enhancing India's trade with countries of the CIS Region. Details of the programme are available on Department's website, www.commerce.nic.in under the head Trade Promotion Programmes'.

(b) Yes Sir. The major commodities of export to Russia during the financial year 2004-05 included traditional as well as other items *viz.* Drugs, Pharmaceuticlas, Fine chemicals, RMG (Ready Made Garments) Cotton including accessories, Tea, Coffee, Tobacco unmanufactured, processed Minerals, Plastic & Linoleum Products, machinery and Instruments, Transport Equipments, Electronic Good etc.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) to (f) During the 11 the Session Indo-Russian Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation held at Moscow in August 2005 issues relating to exports of tea, coffee, tobacco etc. were discussed. Also, to boost India's exports to Russia, Government has taken a number of steps which include promotion of dialogue at the highest level, constant review through the Joint Commission/Working Group/Sub-group mechanism, promoting direct business contacts through exchange of delegations, Joint Business Councils, holding of exhibitions, participation in fairs etc.

Export of iron ore

1512. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of iron ore exported out of total production during the last three years and thereafter and the amount of foreign exchange earned from it country-wise;

(b) whether domestic demand for iron ore has increased and Government are unable to meet the domestic demand;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government propose to impose a ban on the export of iron ore; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the impact it will cast on domestic iron industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (A) The iron ore exported out of the total production during the last three years were 48.47% in 2002-03, 50.94% in 2003-04 and 54.75% (Provisional) in 2004-05. The foreign exchange earned, country-wise, during the last three years is as under:

{Quantity in million tonnes; Value in Rs. crore)

	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
China	26.27	2080.92	42.06	5535.63	59.40	11132.69
Japan	15.75	1112.72	13.10	996.10	11.13	1128.00
S.Korea	2.41	190.38	2.15	146.66	2.18	397.60
Taiwan	0.58	74.06	0.88	74.55	0.61	111.25
Europe	2.04	116.28	2.47	157.75	2.89	527.09
Others	0.97	80.79	1.92	131.39	1.94	353.83
TOTAL	48.02	3655.15	62.58	7042.08	78.15	13650.46

(b) Iron ore was available in surplus quantity even after meeting the enhanced domestic consumption.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

(e) Does not arise.